(b) whether it is a fact that some applications for releasing the funds to NGOs in Assam are pending for the last three years;

(c) if so, the specific reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Workshop on disabilities Act, 1966

95. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day workshop on implementation of the Disabilities Act, 1966 and to review the progress made therein was held on 5th October, 1998 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any action plan for implementation of the Act for the next two years was evolved as a result thereof; and

(c) the details thereof, especially with respect to the mentally disabled persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No such workshop was organized by this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Misuse of grants by NGOs

96. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the misuse of grants by NGOs in various States;

(b) if so, the NGOs who have been found to have misused the grants, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to stop the misuse of grants by NGOs; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

मणिपुर, त्रिपुरा और मध्य प्रदेश में परियोजनाएं

97. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उनके मंत्रालय द्वारा मणिपुर, त्रिपुरा और मध्य प्रदेश में कितनी परियोजनाओं का कार्यान्वयन हो रहा है,

(ख) परियोजनाओं की कुल लागत कितनी है,

(ग) क्या निर्धारित समय से पीछे चल रही परियोजनाओं के संबंध में कोई अनुमान लगाया गया है, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

समाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमति मेनका गांधी): (क) सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय मणिपुर, त्रिपुरा तथा मध्य प्रदेश में किसी परियोजनाओं का कार्यान्वयन नहीं कर रहा है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

National Policy on Elder Persons

98. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce 'National Policy on Elder Persons';

(b) whether policy-draft has been prepared and finalised;

(c) whether State Governments have been associated in framing the policy; and

(d) the broad outlines of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) A National Policy for Older Persons is under consideration of the Government based upon consultations with different Departments of the Central Government, various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations as well as experts in the field. The policy will seek to ensure the well being of older persons by attending to their financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other developmental needs.